

**Statement of Chairwoman Jane Harman  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing &  
Terrorism Risk Assessment**

**“Making Homeland Security Intelligence Work for State,  
Local, and Tribal Partners: An Interagency Threat  
Assessment Coordination Group (ITACG) Progress Report”**

**10:00 A.M., Thursday, March 13, 2008  
311 Cannon House Office Building**

Back at the start of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, this subcommittee made it a priority to represent the views of state and local law enforcement partners. We wanted to peer through the “looking-glass” from the bottom-up.

Nothing frustrates me more than the “stove-pipe culture” and battles over “turf” that plague our government. The inability of our national security agencies to share intelligence information was one of the root causes of our failure to stop the 9/11 attacks.

Knocking down those stove-pipes was the goal of much post-9/11 legislation, including the Intelligence Reform Act and the Homeland Security Act. When it became clear that we face these problems in DHS, Congress passed legislation last summer that embraced the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission.

The 9/11 Act was the earthquake needed to change the ingrained culture of our intelligence bureaucracy. Changing cultures is hard. It has been a very slow process, but I see a break in the clouds. Especially through Section 521 of the 9/11 Act, which established the Interagency Threat Assessment and Coordination Group at the National Counterterrorism Center.

The ITACG gives state and local partners a voice and an opportunity to help create intelligence products that make sense to their communities. Over the course of a few months, the small staff of the ITACG has worked hard to improve information sharing. We are on track for success.

But now that the train has left the station, we must determine what roles that DHS, the Intelligence Community, and Congress will play.

ITACG is tasked with providing America alerts, warnings, and notifications of terrorist threats. It will also provide strategic assessments of these threats. Law enforcement stands on America's frontlines. They know how threats may affect their individual towns and cities.

And we need to help them understand how the ITACG can lend a hand. The ITACG has to be marketed more aggressively. Its products must be effectively and efficiently disseminated. A "Tagline" note on ITACG products will help.

State and local partners must also understand how to access the information ITACG produces. Once it overcomes the struggle just to push intelligence reports out the door, ITACG staff and the advisory council can improve communication and feedback with our partners on the frontlines. Part of the problem is that the classification process is incredibly difficult to navigate. As the ITACG evolves, state and local input will improve. Virtual networks show promise for uniting state and local intelligence communities and law enforcement.

Attracting the next group of police and sheriffs' officers to the ITACG Detail has also proven extremely difficult. Members of Congress may be able to help to raise awareness. Next week, I will speak at the National Fusion Center Conference in San Francisco. NCTC is evolving into its own sort of "national fusion center," of which the ITACG is becoming a crucial function.